

**Virginia Board of Education  
Graduation and Dropout Committee  
January 10, 2007  
12:15 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

**James Monroe Building  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Jefferson Conference Room  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Committee Members Present:** Mr. Andrew J. Rotherham, Co-Chair; Dr. Ella P. Ward, Co-Chair; Dr. Mark E. Emblidge; Dr. Thomas M. Brewster; Mrs. Isis M. Castro; Mr. David L. Johnson; Mr. Kelvin A. Moore; Mrs. Eleanor B. Saslaw; and Dr. Patricia Wright.

**Purpose of Meeting:** To hear different perspectives and examine factors related to why students drop out of high school.

**Summary of Committee Meeting:**

1. Mr. Rotherham and Dr. Ward opened the meeting and described the agenda.
2. Ms. Karen Burke Morison, senior vice president, Civic Enterprises, LLC, provided an overview of her national study on dropouts, entitled, *The Silent Epidemic*.
3. Ms. Angela Ciolfi, Powell Fellow, JustChildren Program, Legal Aid Justice Center, provided a presentation on her analysis of dropouts and graduation rates in Virginia.
4. Mr. Albert Ciarochi, principal, Highland Springs High School, Henrico County; Mr. Martin Ringstaff, principal, Dan River High School, Pittsylvania County; and Mrs. Cynthia Watson, principal, Booker T. Washington High School, Norfolk, participated in a panel discussion and answered questions on their perspectives on the causes of dropouts in their high schools.
5. Mr. Rotherham and Dr. Ward provided closing remarks.